

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 are independent. Claims 4-6 are amended to correct informalities. Claims 8-12 are added.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. It is respectfully submitted that the claims in this application are allowable for the reasons given in the remarks herein.

Drawings

It is respectfully submitted that the amended drawings fully comply with the requirements of the USPTO. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested

to issue a PTO-Form 948 with the next Official communication indicating that the drawings are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-7 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,480,188 to Horsley in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,357 to Kushiro et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,589,893 to Gaughan et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Horsley patent is only available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because of its 35 U.S.C. §102(e) filing date of September 6, 2000. However, the present application claims the right of priority based on Korean Application No. P2000-47939, filed on August 18, 2000. Attached hereto is a Verified English-language Translation of Korean Application No. P2000-47939, thereby automatically disqualifying the Horsley patent as prior art against the present invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Added Claims

Dependent claims 8-12 are added to recite additional aspects of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that the limitations claims 8-12 are fully supported in the specification of the present invention, and that claims 8-12 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations provided therein.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

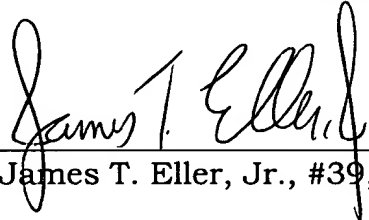
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Amendment filed June 14, 2004
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Verified English Translation of Korean Application No. 2000-47939